

THEL BARRYMORE in "Doclasses" at the Empire Theatre is one of the theatrical sensaof the hour. "Declassee" is the work of Zoe Akins, the St. Louis poet opportunity it affords Miss Barryme its fresh humor and its exceptional English place it high in contemporane ous American drama.

Miss Akins evidently does not be lleve in wasting an audience's time and trying its patience with a first act filled with long explanations as to the whys and wherefores. Before the curfirst act of "Declassee" she has plunged into the very midst of her story. The scene is a London draw-Heden, whose appreciative monarch has conferred knighthood upon him as a reward for his second true had varvices." ing-room-at the house of Sir Bruce as a reward for his success as a world no longer. (Turning to Mrs butcher. It is quickly apparent that Loslie and Thayer.) I suppose you the curtain has gone up just a minute or so too late to let the audience. There was once quite a lot of us and exciting and not altogether pleasant domestic storm. The party, which be-Bir Emmett is talking to Sir Bruce in she has left Mrs. Ashley trying to talk parties go off into adjoining rooms to some sense into Lady Helen, Mrs. resume their interrupted games. Lady

that Helen could do," retorts Ohardoesn't know and will never loarn smile)-Then? I suppose I'd become the difference between a pound and a declassee in time.

"Oh, she knows that a pound is and a shilling is something you give and a shilling is something you give the taxi driver," says Mrs. Ashley. Thay help it

And when Mrs. Leslie suggests that

a divorce would be the proper rem-

Charteris goes away to talk to Lady grave)—He's thought so. But Helen and Mrs. Leslie wonders if he ho's learned a lesson to-night. isn't in love with his hostess. "Of Thayer-You were so wonderful. course," snys Lady Wildering, "every- I didn't know better I could almost one knows he is." "Yes," adds Mrs. have thought that you really cared for Ashley, "hopolessly, wonderfully, un- me. selfishly, beautifully in love-all his Lady Helen-What I said in your

Thayer, who promises to be good and of any stranger in the same situation.

"I never believe doctors and I never

ways believe fortune tellers." "Yes, you would," remarks her husband, "being one of the mad Varvicks." and mad through some of the soberest which some Varvick did not offer his other, and after that another. got the habit of dying. We've always let yourself care one little bit more We do admit to an occasional white very tender.) I suppose, after all, the

And then, suddenly, the servants before. And surely there will be so

Helen is all gayety again-gay with marks that she ought not to be so Lady Wildering she remarks that she ready to desert the first friend she had 's glad Sir Bruce apologized as he did.

"It's not supremely jolly to be mar-"She's begun to laugh now and know what I'd do if he threw me blame the new cook for Sir Bruce's over or I had to throw him over. Run temper. It seems that he's always a hat shop or something, I supposeexpected to get into one whenever though every time I've run anythington not long enough. And both hap-pened to-night." aged in some mysterious way to be in debt to somebody as a result. No, I'd She wonders why Lady Helen have no luck with hat shops and "But there's nothing nothing at all, to sell a pearl every day or two-

intil they were all gone--' Mrs. Ashley-Yes, and then?

At last Lady Helen and Thayer are Lady Helen-I'm so sorry

Thayer-I'm sorry too, but I couldn't

Is for—to tip people with."

They say she is the most extrava—
There's nothing—nothing at all too dreadful for my husband to say when

Thayer (unhappily)-I supposeleast according to the tales one hearsedy, the English women inform her he's had occasion to be jealous a great

Lady Helen (with a laugh, grave)-He's thought so. But I think

ETHEL BARRYMORE DECLACTE

and Mrs. Leslie hurries on, closely fol-

with you that you find it impossible

lutely undeniable, wasn't it?

Charteris-Absolutely.

Lady Helen-Not yet.

now except that I'm sorry.

Thayer-To your husband?

Lady Helen-Of course.

Thayer-You don't dare.

go out of it, too, forever.

was wrong?

Thayer-You won't.

Lady Helen-Yes. He said it to ;

Thayer-You mean-to tell him?

Lady Helen-I will. He pleads-his life won't be worth

Lady Helen-I don't dare? Dare

what? Admit that he was right and I

Thayer-You said to-night that it

he kicked me out of this house you'd

Lady Helen looks at him in amaze

ters. If she tells on him he'll tell on

Lady Helen turns from him in dis-

others to come in. And as the curtain

It is two years later when the cur-

her-give her husband her letters.

suppose. And we kept on being gay you really don't know-why bother about it? Thayer-One shouldn't bother about

etimes we lost our heads; some- it. You are right. After all, I'm just times we went to house parties in the an incident in your life-just some one Queen. But there never was a battle other springs. Last year it was some second time! You must be insane. Or fought for England, by land or sea, in one else, and next year it will be an- has dishonesty become such a habit own party.

died-I think we've rather liked dying about me than you think I care about Lady Helen silences her and tells her -just as we've always liked our you, do you, Ned? (He does not an- to go. Thayer starts to follow. ghosts and our debts and our heredl , wer. She continues lightly.) You tary gout and our scandals and our, think you are just one of my captroubadors and our fortune telling rices, don't you? (He still does not gypsies and even our white sheep, answer. Again her tone is light, hit sheep in the family-one every cen- was some one whom you thought you cared for last spring-and the spring You must say it to him. and she'll have all the other spring times as well. I hope so. And I hope -for she will need it with you, my living if everybody knows and Sir dear; and a very tender heart, for she Bruce will tell. will need that too; and a very wise head-you're not very wise yourself, never heard of fair play? Well, turn you know. And I hope that she will about is fair play. It's my husband's be young and lovely and that you will turn now. he always very happy together and

very, very sad apart-as long as both

Thayer-Not any one who pretended

to be in love with me. don't pretend to know myself-and I've never pretended to love you, Ned. I'm afraid of the very word. Love!

Thayer-But only a week ago-oh, I don't understand you.

foreground are seated Sir Emmett Thayer-You wrote me such wonderful letters from the country. Is it Ashley. The audience learns from

Lady Helen-No, I don't think the stupidest person would doubt that I British Ambassador and that Mrn. Lady Helen-Yes, here we are-

But she sees it is hopeless. She Helen appears for a moment in the Solomon-I suppose that I seem

Thayer-He was one, yes.

The room is in darkness for a mo-

Charteris hurries in and seats himself with the Wilderings. He has just seen Lady Helen outside in a telephone booth. She enters and Charteris goes Her joy at seeing her old friends

is evident and she chatters gayly about all sorts of things. There is a torch of sadness back of it all, though. She tells them that she must go to her guests who are waiting for her. She has the three wonderful Waltons, refuses his ambiguous offer. Lady Helen-If you don't know-if wait. Lady Helen comes next and The others are Zellito, who used to too, to think of the sheer decency of ou really don't know-why bother. Thouser enters last, his head hanging, tell fortunes at her bazaars in London, having enough money again for one's but who refuses to tell hers any more | whims-which seem so much more imfor some reason; and Alice Vance, "a Brondway celebrity in musical comedy, Lady Helen (looking from Thayer to Tower; sometimes we hunted with the who happened to interest you for a Mrs. Leslie)—You fools! Fools! God dolph Solomon, "the American rival King and knew all the secrets of the month or so one spring out of all the knows why you should have done it a of the British Museum." The Waltons arrive and she goes to join her

> the others all depart, leaving Lady Helen and Solomon alone together. Solomon-You're very childlike,

looking at me so starnly? Are you thinking that I've got my frock very Lady Helen-You must say that to

Solomon-I'm thinking that you've

rambles on, brightly, as he watches her thoughtfully. thinking of, my friend?

Solomon-I was thinking of a shooting star, Lody Helen-a star that I saw once fall from the sky into that dark garden of water that lies between New York and the outer ocean. I was a newsboy and I had sold all my papers. I was lying on the grass in Battery Park because it was better than going to the place that I

I saw the lightning of the shooting

thinking of? He refers to a remark she has made previously about the beauty of the stars on the South Seas. He thinks

Solomon-Purpose. The progress of one's spirit upon a pilgrimage of falls she begins to tell her husband achievement—the building of one's to pay. She asks her waiter for a When the grass of Battery Park was when she notices the man whispering my bed, an earl was as legendary to hotel at tea time. At a table in the me as the Santa Claus that drove his ter to her and asks him kindly how earl's daughter was as remote as the the conversation of this and other farthest star in the darkness of the parties at nearby tables that Sir Em. | night. Yet here we are, Lady Helenmett has come to America as the you and I.

Ashley is playing in New York. Lady you and I.

can not make him understand. So at hackground and asks the head waiter; you very conscious of all that I have last she urges him to leave London- to keep a table for her-she is expect- got from life. Well, I am conscious to go out to South Africa, as he had ing guests. She does not see her of it. It's a great satisfaction to have falked of doing. No, he won't do that, former friends nor do they see her, got what one has wanted. And I've He finds London a jolly place and he's Other tea drinkers recognize her and not stopped, you know, at getting going to stay. Resides he has had remark that she has become so money. I've gone on. I know the Lady Helen-From Mr. Rudolph wits.

declassee—that she is living by her world and its finest things—its cities, its music its literature and all its The Wilderings and Mrs. Ashley games. I've thrust my hands into the speak of her-wonder what has be- past and touched history. In my come of her since her husband house there are marbles and swords up so high that Rudolph Solomon will welcomes him and tells him he will time to act, and act she divorced her—recall the night she exposed Thayer and he gave her letters perors and warriors and queens and painting that pleases her especially— Helen Haden. And he adds that he is are still a secret between Lady Helen—What I said in your behalf to-night I would have said exceed between the following to see that picture, too. My money is build, and Alec Vance, the star of a Broad-ling projects that will benefit generations not yet born.

Thaver Ch.

The betells her of how he once to Sir Bruce and then disappeared immortal courtesans. And I've touched a portrait of her own great-greation to make her his wife.

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millionaire, who has just spent two really wanted—and have got, isn't it? him how one evening she wanted to be. Then Charteris, who is present, home crying; but even take seats at the table reserved for life at its rarest. And to know that Garden of Eden"—that she had heard to Lady Helen, and recalls the fact back between 2005; Lady Helen. Solomon soon follows there is one thing more that I must of where "you bought a ticket and that she once cheated at cards. Mrs.

Lady Helen—It's power that you him how one evening she wanted to be. Then Charteris, who is present, home crying; but even the line is the fact take seats at the table reserved for life at its rarest. And to know that I must of where "you bought a ticket and that she once cheated at cards. Mrs.

Lady Helen—It's power that you him how one evening she wanted to be. Then Charteris, who is present, home crying; but even insists that Mrs. Lealle must apologize rival had the last word for back between 2005; back

Lady Helen-But I'm no longer sufficiently precious object for the colden cabinet of your very successful life. Solomon-But I want you.

three partners.

an uncaring crowd."

last pearl is gone?

ecklessness, perhaps.

stupid about names.

Would you, I wonder?

ple? What are you?

that is past and done with.

"I can't really afford you," he says

like this. You're like a lost child in

jewels. What will she do when the

"Harry," she says, "I've a very great,

very pure affection for you, but-if I

were your mother I wouldn't let you

Solomon-I want an ambiguous

thing-romance. He pleads his cause well and Lady Helen hesitates, but-in the end she

Lady Helen-And I really like portant, somehow, than one's needs. another woman's lover-though I suppose I wouldn't hesitate if you were her husband. Alice loves you and there's something about love-true love-that's very touching to me-

something at which even I cannot Solomon-You must have been very Lady Helen-I was

Solomon-And you must have been very much hurt. Lady Helen-I was.

Lady Helen-I ran very hard and played very recklessly and fell down and soiled my frock and cut my hands and cried a little and laughed a

Solomon-Didn't he care for you? Lady Helen-Not the least bit in the world. He cheated at cards. I

Lady Helen-It should have, but it

didn't. That's all. It was long ago, she and she no longer thinks of the man now, but she could never kill somecalled home. I was half asleep when thing in another woman's heart that might be as beautiful as the thing that

life killed in her own. I say that if he kicks me out you will moment)-And now what are you ised to dine at his new house a week from that night and he tells her that

> "For you and me," he remarks, "we communicable technique of magnifi-

He goes, leaving her with her bill to the head-waiter. She calls the lataround the check which she has rolled up, she holds it out to him.

"I'll ask you, Jean," she says, "to give my waiter a tip for me.'

She smiles at him and walks proudly

a week later in the magnificent home ise. I'll be good. I'll be quite a re-of Rudolph Solomon. Lady Reien is in formed character, Rudolph, if you talk her element showing her friends the to me like that. beautiful works of art that her host. She leaves him then talk with Charteris in which she tells her that she is insulting his wife to of the would be prima de

for that incident on "Lady Helens friend, Ned Thayer!" Charteris-You don't mean to say

LADY HELEN HADEN (ETHEL BARRYMORE)

RUDOLPH SOLOMON (CLAUDE KING)

still loves, he feels sure. And Thays a there! Hard as it is for him to da that you went? Lady Helen-Oh, yes. And I had he knows there is only one thing for him to do. And he does it. He talk my life. I danced until 5 o'clock in the morning and got a prize. Lady Helen that it would be a mistake for them to marry. There is some one Charteris—A prize? Lady Helen—Yes, for dancing longer in the house who can tell her why better than he can. He begs her to

wait and hurries from the room. I danced for six hours and wore out Lady Helen lingers for a moment, but the disappointment is too great for her and she leaves the room by one

door as Thayer enters by another. There is an accident. Lady Helen, only I can't bear to see you drifting as she crosses the street, is struck by a motor car and they bring her back into the house, dying. Thayer comes to her then. He's come back-a man -for her, he tells her, And the race of the mad Varvicks

WHEN PEGGY WOOD BOSSED.

marry me. Some men could afford N the yesteryear of her childhood my extravagance and cope with my they called her "Rosebud Peggy." Wood so impressed her neighbor claims Charteris, "then in God's name, wood so impressed her neighbors marry him! But don't drift." Wood so impressed her neighbors with the Dresden delleacy of her loveliness and the gentle charm of They drink a solemn toast to England as Solomon returns to the room.

Charter's goes to join the others and thing to do with the tander manner.

Solomon reminds Lady Helen of the in which Miss Wood holds her birth-The reason she gave for refusing to pleasantries which George V. Hobart accept it then no longer exists. Alice directs against this section of Greater Vance is leaving him-going to New York in "Buddies," the new com He has thought of her only for months | ten the music in which Miss Wood ! He recalls the time when she used to one of the stars in the Selwyl come to luncheon with him in Lon- Theatre. Now there was one ambition which

Lady Helen-I have always been little Peggy cherished more than an other when, as a very little girl, folks Solomon (gravely) — Particularly were attracted by the clarity and about your own. But if mine were beauty of her soprano voice. She yours would you be as careless of it didn't care a single taffy stick about as you have been of your own? becoming a trained nurse, or a teacher Lady Helen-If your name were regulated little girl neighbors did Shi Solomon-I want to ask you to true seemed to her through the ofmarry me, but-I'm very proud of my ganization of an opera company silly to one whose ancestors have boss and in which she could give herwritten themselves down, generation self the prima donna roles. So "Rose after generation, in the history of bud Peggy" became an impressarie England. But I am proud of it. And who was beset by many troubles. Beit hurts me to give it into the keeping ing a voice trainer, coach, composed of one who has already been so care- producer and prima donna all at once less of the traditions and glories about presented many serious troubles to the little Brooklyn girl. Especially when

her company was temperamen ing, indeed. But-what are you, any- order to deserve the name. way, Helen? A mother who never company was composed of had a child? An artist without a neighborhood children, be talent? A courtesan born to the purstood, and never in all the world was

fort to emulate Galil-Curci and There was one little lass 3 He speaks again of the former love she has told him of. She protests that

ability was at all necessary

Peggy's clear, sweet soprand

above all the rest-the one on

Solomon-Do you care for me? Will Lady Helen-I-I like you. I've the leading roles, so she because great respect for you. What I might to organize a strike. She to come to feel for you I don't know. I to organize a strike. She to can see how life with you would be that Peggy was a "selfish to very easy—very easy and beautiful, that she hadn't any voice And you know that if you want to and made disagreeable remarks marry me I should be mad if I re-

you? You're so reckless—like a wind. But you will take care-won't you? And let all the old miserable gossip own disloyalty, this young

ise. I'll be good. I'll be quite a re. pany of children finally to

has gathered. The Wilderings, Mrs. guests come and go. Suddenly Thayer its music, its literature and all its has gathered. The winderings, are guests come and go. Sourced, London own. come, as she says, "to send her stock and has made his fortune. Solomon

children against Persy sorted to bribery. For the rector that she could go opera alone. They said the "a very horrid little girl "Rosebud Poggy